



# SKIPTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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## Fifty-Ninth Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1938.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of your District for the year ending 31st December, 1938.

The report is an "Ordinary Report" drawn up on the lines suggested in the Ministry of Health Circular 1728, and, in accordance with the economy cuts recommended by the Central Authority and local Councils, repetition is avoided by reference to information given in the "Survey Report" of 1930. Further details of work done are restricted to facts essential to the maintenance of the continuity of records kept for the past fifty-eight years.

The change in the boundaries of the area affected under the County Review of Districts has no bearing on the present report, 7 acres only being added to the District.

The incidence of infectious disease showed less than the usual variation. Non-notifiable diseases—Chicken Pox and Whooping Cough—were certainly prevalent, but Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria were average.

Improvement in trade was good and unemployment showed a hopeful decline until the last quarter when international complications reduced exports, especially of Textiles, and unemployment showed an increase.

As shown later under Vital Statistics, the birth-rate was higher and the death-rate lower than in 1936 and 1937.

### A.—NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

1. PHYSICAL FEATURES
2. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

} See 1930 Report.

## 3. GENERAL DETAILS OF THE DISTRICT.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,211
Population (1921 Census)	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,013
Population (1931 Census)	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,461
Population (1938 estimated)	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,830
Inhabited Houses (1938 estimated)	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,975
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£86,800
Sums represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£335

## VITAL STATISTICS.

## (a) BIRTHS.

The Births registered as occurring in or belonging to the District were 168.

Legitimate	...	...	88 males and 73 females.
Illegitimate	...	...	3 males and 4 females.

Birth-rate on an estimated population of 12,830 is equivalent to 13·1 per 1,000, compared with 13·3, 12·6 and 11·6 in the previous three years, with 12·4 for the Craven Combined Districts, and with 15·1 for England and Wales.

## (b) DEATHS.

The deaths, after correction by the inward transfer of residents dying outside the District and the outward transfer of non-residents dying inside the District, numbered 83 males and 69 females—a total of 152.

The Death-rate is thus 11·8, compared with 11·3, 13·5 and 14·3 in the previous three years, with 13·5 for the Craven Combined Districts, and 11·6 for England and Wales.

## (c) INFANT MORTALITY.

The infant deaths, as corrected by the Registrar General, were 3 males and 2 females—all legitimate.

The infant mortality was therefore 30 per 1,000 births, compared with 63, 62 and 87 in the previous three years, with 34 for the Craven Districts, and 53 for England and Wales.

## (d) STILL BIRTHS.

Number of still births registered, 5.

Percentage of still births to total births (alive and still born), 2·9, compared with 3·4 in Craven Urban and 4·6 in Craven Rural Districts.

## (e) MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Number of maternal deaths from puerperal causes—1.

Mortality rate per 1,000 live births—5·9, compared with 5·5 for the Craven Combined District and with 3·08 for England and Wales.

## ZYMOTIC DEATHS.

The seven principal zymotic diseases, namely Small Pox, Measles, Whooping Cough, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever and Diarrhœa, were responsible for 0 deaths, compared with 1, 4 and 1 in previous three years.

The Zymotic death-rate, therefore, was ·00, compared with ·07, ·31 and ·07 in the previous three years, and with ·19 in the Craven Combined Districts.

## CAUSES OF DEATH.

Causes of Death in Skipton Urban District, 1938.					M.	F.
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	83	69
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	...	—	—		
2	Measles	...	...	...	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—
6	Influenza	...	...	...	—	—
7	Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	—	—
8	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	—	—
9	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	2	2		
10	Other tuberculous diseases	...	—	1		
11	Syphilis	...	—	—		
12	General paralysis of insane, tabes dorsalis	...	—	—		
13	Cancer, malignant disease	...	9	14		
14	Diabetes	...	—	—		
15	Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	...	4	4		
16	Heart disease	...	19	15		
17	Aneurysm	...	1	—		
18	Other circulatory diseases	...	15	10		
19	Bronchitis	...	7	1		
20	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	1	3		
21	Other respiratory diseases	...	1	—		
22	Peptic ulcer	...	1	—		
23	Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	...	—	—		
24	Appendicitis	...	—	1		
25	Cirrhosis of liver	...	1	—		
26	Other diseases of liver	...	—	—		
27	Other digestive diseases	...	2	1		
28	Acute and chronic nephritis	...	3	1		
29	Puerperal Sepsis	...	—	—		
30	Other puerperal causes	...	—	1		
31	Congenital debility, premature birth, &c.	...	3	2		
32	Senility	...	—	3		
33	Suicide	...	2	1		
34	Other deaths from violence	...	3	1		
35	Other defined diseases	...	9	8		
36	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	—	—		
	Special Causes (included in No. 35 above):					
	Small-Pox	...	—	—		
	Poliomyelitis	...	—	—		
	Polioencephalitis	...	—	—		

To the total death-rate of 11·84

Infectious Diseases contributed	·00
Tuberculosis	·38
Cancer	1·79
Heart Disease	2·63
Respiratory Diseases	1·01
Apoplexy	·60
Senility	·38
Premature Birth, &c.	·23
Other Diseases	4·8

General death-rate is average, infant mortality very low and maternal mortality slightly above average.

## AGES AT DEATH (approximate).

Age.	Deaths.	Percentage.	Period of Life.
0—1	5	3·3	Infancy
1—5	1	·6	Early Childhood
5—15	3	2·0	School
15—65	59	38·2	Working
65 upwards	84	55·3	Autumn and Winter



## B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

### 1.—PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

M.O.H.—WILLIAM SCATTERTY, M.A., M.D., C.M., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector—F. HOLMES, M.S.I.A.

### 2.—HOSPITALS, CLINICS, PROFESSIONAL NURSING, &c.

There has been no development or change in the services provided by the Council during the year. Details of these, as well as those established and supervised by the West Riding County Council, were given in the 1932 Report.

The negotiations between the W.R.C.C. and the Isolation Hospital Committee for the admission of cases of Puerperal Pyrexia into the Isolation Hospital are satisfactorily concluded. No cases were admitted during the year.

## C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

### 1.—WATER SUPPLY.

A general description of the town's water undertaking was given in the Report for 1930. The supply in any normal year is more than sufficient for the needs of the town, even although the average daily consumption for domestic and trade purposes exceeds 49 gallons per head of the population. 3,959 houses are on the public supply, leaving 20 out-lying houses and farms on private supplies.

The normal depth of water in the Embsay Moor Reservoir is 56 feet. In January it fell to 46 feet; in February rose to 53 feet 7 inches—a level which was maintained with little variation throughout the remainder of the year.

The quality of the water supplied to the town has never been in question, and since the open spring water tank (used for washing the filters) was covered over the growth of Algae in the water has been effectively checked. Further extensions of mains were carried out owing to building activity, particularly to new dwellinghouses in the Regent Road, Regent Drive, Raikeswood, Hurrs Road and Great Wood Avenue districts.

PLUMBO SOLVENCY, etc.—Samples of tap water were repeatedly examined for the presence of lead with almost negative results. One sample taken in Broughton Road after standing in the pipe all night showed 1/50th of a grain per gallon; after standing half-an-hour no lead was present.

### CHEMICAL ANALYSES.

	Sample (a). 4, Regent Road			Sample (b). 104, Broughton Rd.		
Total solids	...	...	...	6·0	6·4	
Chlorine (combined)	...	...	...	·7	·7	
Nitrites	...	...	...	none	none	
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...	none	none	
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	·0014	·0007	
Albumenoid Ammonia	...	...	...	·0007	·0007	
Lead, Zinc, Copper	...	...	...	none	none	
Total hardness (Clark's scale)	...	...	...	2·5	2·5	
Temporary	...	...	...	—	—	
Permanent	...	...	...	—	—	
	p.h.	7·8		p.h.	6·4	

These are both waters of good organic purity, soft and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

RICHARDSON & JAFFE.

## BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSES.

Report on the Bacteriological examination of two samples of water :

No. 1 Tap water, Surveyor's Department, Town Hall.

No. 2 Tap water, Water Department Office.

	Sample No. 1	Sample No. 2.
No. of colonies per cubic centimeter or milli- litre of water growing on Agar at 20° C.		
in 3 days ... ..	1	5
No. of colonies per c. cm. at 37° in one day ...	0	2
No. of colonies per c. cm. at 37° in two days ...	0	3
Smallest quantity of water producing acid and gas in Bile Salt Lactose after two days incubation at 37° C. ... ..	absent in 100 c.c.	absent
Smallest quantity of water containing B. Coli ...	Absent in 100 c.c.	absent.
Smallest quantity giving the reaction of B. Welchii ... ..	absent in 100 c.c.	absent

SAMPLES No. 1 and No. 2.

This is a clear and bright water of the highest standard of purity. We regard the water as pure and wholesome and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

(Signed) BEALE & SUCKLING,

The Counties Public Health Laboratories, London.

## 2.—SEWERAGE DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

There is fairly complete system of sewerage in the town—extensions of mains being laid in areas where housing activity is shown ; e.g., in Regent Road, Regent Drive, Old Raikes, Hurrs Road and Great Wood Avenue.

At the Sewage Disposal Works the extra sewage filter and storm water tanks, constructed in 1932, continue satisfactory improvements, as is also the  $4\frac{3}{4}$  acres of land reserved for dealing with heavy sludge from the storm water tanks.

## 3.—CLOSET ACCOMMODATION, SCAVENGING, &amp;c.

The town is on the water-carriage system, there being 3,790 water closets, 8 waste water closets and 4 privies. 46 cisterns with proper flushing arrangements were installed during the year, compared with 60, 40 and 55 in the previous three years. 25 water closets have been provided and 17 re-conditioned.

The 4 privy-closets in the town are situated too low for the public sewer and are therefore provided with galvanised containers and emptied weekly.

112 water closets were constructed for new houses in 1938.

In each of the past three years it was incidentally mentioned that 28 small bedrooms had been converted into bathrooms, and this year an additional 6 rooms have been similarly converted. Available bedroom accommodation is thus being curtailed. The more liberal interpretation of this Bye-Law permitting bathrooms to be built over sculleries less than 15 feet from the boundary wall has not been taken advantage of—only 2 such plans being submitted during the year.

SCAVENGING.—The abolition of joint ashpits is steadily progressing. 12 being done away with during the year and 20 removeable ashbins provided in their place. All new houses are, of course, supplied with separate moveable bins.

The weekly collection of dry ashes and trade refuse continues as formerly. Total cost of collection and disposal of refuse, £1,976.

REFUSE REMOVAL.—The steady increase in the number of new houses continues—112 this year and approximately 729 during the past ten years. These new houses are of a type which entails longer distances to be traversed in collecting the refuse. The composition of the refuse is definitely changing. The bulk, if not the weight, is certainly greater. Owing to the slump in the waste paper market, the baling of waste paper was discontinued, and only 12 tons were baled.

The total income for removing trade refuse was £180.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.—The bulk of the town's refuse is tipped under controlled methods on low-lying ground off Carleton Road, Ings Lane and Short Bank Road—the latter site being for heavy trade refuse only. No complaint has been received regarding the condition of the tips. A further area at Ings Lane and Carleton Road was soiled over for completion—a condition to be observed in renting the land.

During the year 3,769 loads, weighing 4,136 tons, were collected and tipped, at a cost of 9s. 2d. per ton, including cost of disposal.

#### 4.—SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT OF THE SANITARY WORK, &c., completed in the year ending December 31st, 1938 :—

Number of complaints received during the year	...	...	45
Number of Houses built during the year	...	...	112
Number of Houses, Premises, &c., inspected	...	...	1596
House drains repaired, cleansed, &c.	...	...	62
House drains trapped and ventilated	...	...	8
New Baths fitted	...	...	13
Waste pipes trapped	...	...	16
Water closets repaired, cleansed, &c.	...	...	17
Water Closets supplied with Water	...	...	46
Water closets provided	...	...	25
Ashpits, &c., converted to Bins	...	...	11
Ashpits repaired and covered	...	...	3
Removal of accumulation of dung, stagnant water, animal and other water	...	...	4
Eaves troughs provided and repaired	...	...	17
Removal of animals improperly kept	...	...	8
Filthy houses ordered to be cleansed	...	...	15
Overcrowding (Housing Act, 1935 standard)	...	...	9
Smoke records taken (60 observations)	...	...	13
Offensive trades complained of	...	...	—
Schools disinfected after infectious disease	...	...	—
Houses disinfected after infectious disease	...	...	31
Common lodging house inspections	...	...	12
Slaughter-house inspections	...	...	440
Bakehouse inspections	...	...	18
Dairies and Cowshed inspections	...	...	31
Milkshop inspections	...	...	4
Canal boats inspected	...	...	12
Premises examined under "Factory and Workshops Act"	...	...	66
Plans approved	...	...	107
Plans disapproved	...	...	4
Statutory Notices	...	...	1
Preliminary Notices (informal)	...	...	82



## 5.—PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS.

## (a) COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There is only one Common Lodging House in the district and this was regularly inspected as to cleanliness of bedding, floors and whitewashing. Although these premises cannot be said to be ideal, they supply a need, and owing to a decrease in the number of lodgers, plans were submitted and approved for alterations and the work carried out, reducing the number of the lodgers from 75 to 40. Under the new Public Health Act, 1936, registration as keeper was applied for and granted for another year.

## (b) BAKEHOUSES.

There are 18 bakehouses in the town. The general arrangement and condition were found satisfactory, except in two instances, where whitewashing was overdue but remedied after notice. Two Bakehouses have been altered and reconditioned after interview with the owner.

## (c) OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Three tripe-boiling and one gut-scraping business come under this description—the latter being in connection with the Public Abattoir.

No new businesses were established during the year and no inquiry was made regarding establishing new fish-frying businesses.

TOYS FOR RAGS.—Under Section 154 of the Public Health Act, 1936, your Inspector instituted proceedings through the agency of the Police, resulting in the conviction of two men distributing toys for rags at the schools, to children under 14 years of age.

## (d) SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The following observations by your Inspector are interesting :—

“37 observations were taken during the year and only three chimneys were observed to emit black smoke beyond the permitted allowance of two minutes in 30. These were followed up with a warning notice and a visit to the works.

A Soot Gauge to collect the atmospheric deposit to ascertain the amount of deleterious matter in the air is in operation. The West Riding County Council defray the cost of the monthly analyses and compare the results with those of larger towns.

There are now 101 such stations operating in conjunction with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, London, who compile statistical data, etc., for the country.

During the year our monthly analyses showed the following weights per square mile were deposited.

January	...	...	22·2 tons	July	...	...	19·1 tons
February	...	...	13·6 „	August	...	...	19·1 „
March	...	...	11·5 „	September	...	...	11·5 „
April	...	...	7·1 „	October	...	...	17·4 „
May	...	...	11·5 „	November	...	...	17·9 „
June	...	...	17·3 „	December	...	...	13·8 „

Thus the average deposit per square mile is 15·1 tons, as against 12·2 tons last year.

Although the district may be classed as semi-rural in character, there is no doubt the absence of smoke, i.e., a purer atmosphere, would tend to improvement in the general health.

The harmful effects of smoke may not be so pronounced as in large industrial towns and the diminution of atmospheric impurities (aerial sewage) from domestic chimneys has not shown as much improvement as in the case of the factory chimney. Frequent observations, the more general interest taken by stokers and prompt action against offenders resulted in only three verbal notices being necessary in the case of factory chimneys. The prosecutions were instituted this year in respect of “firing” domestic chimneys, so perhaps the summary action taken last year has borne fruit.”

Your Inspector was re-elected on the Executive of the W.R. Smoke Abatement Committee as a representative of the Urban District Council.

(d) FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

A Register, Record Book and Fire Escape Book are kept, in which are entered details as to sanitation, air space, ventilation, drainage of floors, cleanliness, etc.

The following list shows the number of Factories and Workshops on the Register :—

FACTORIES.				
Printing Works...	...	...		4
Cotton Factories	...	...	8 (13 sections)	
Dye Works	..	...		3
Public Laundry...	...	...		—
Ironworks	...	..		2
Cabinet Works	...	...		5
Engineers and Motor Engineers				7
<b>Total</b>	...	...		<b>29</b>
WORKSHOPS.				
OCCUPATION.				Number.
Shoemakers and Cloggers	...			18
Tailors	...	...	...	10
Tripe Boilers	...	...	...	2
Blacksmiths	...	...	...	3
Bakehouses	...	...	...	18
Dressmakers and Milliners	...			18
Saddlers...	...	...	...	2
Gutscrapers	...	...	...	1
Joiners	...	...	...	10
Disinfectant Works	..	...		1
<b>Total</b>	...	...		<b>83</b>

40 inspections of workshops and 26 of factories were made.

Want of cleanliness was found in 1 instance, and other nuisances in 10 other cases, all of which have duly been remedied.

Lime-washing was overdue in 2 instances, and had to be carried out after notice.

(e) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

To ensure a reasonable standard of purity in the Public Swimming Bath during the Summer a more frequent renewal of this water with the addition of Chloros was maintained. A sample taken from the covered bath still yielded an unsatisfactory bacteriological analysis and further improvement is called for.

The open air swimming pool is partially running water and here the bacteriological examination was also unsatisfactory.

Bacteriological examination of water taken from both covered and open pools showed :

BACTERIAL CONTENT.

Average number of organisms developing on agar plates incubated for 2 days at 37°  
C.=1680 per ml. of water.

Average number of organisms developing on agar plates incubated for 3 days at 22°  
C.=Uncountable per ml. of water.



## PRESUMPTIVE B. COLI.

1 in 100 ml. of water.

## CHEMICAL EXAMINATION.

pH value = 7.2 (Ministry of Health standard 7.6 — 8).

No free chlorine present in 1,000,000 parts of water (Ministry of Health standard 0.2 — 0.5 parts free chlorine present in 1,000,000 parts of water).

P. L. SUTHERLAND, County Bacteriologist.

## (f) CAMPING SITES.

None within the Urban District.

## (g) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

(1) The number of houses found infested was 13—two being Council houses.

(2) Remedial measures adopted by the Sanitary Inspector—intense fumigation by sulphur compound (Cimex) and minor infestations by spraying by insecticides—particular attention being given to bedding mattress and skirting board. In no instance was evidence found of infestation after disinfection.

(3) Careful inquiry is made before allowing tenants to remove to Council houses, and in 4 cases disinfection measures had to be carried out. Every unoccupied house is inspected before allowing occupation.

(4) The work of disinfection is undertaken by the Sanitary Authority.

## (h) SHOP ACT.

The County Council are the Authority empowered to enforce hours of employment, while the Urban Council are responsible for all sanitary arrangements.

During the year 28 inspections were made. In one case new accommodation had to be provided and in two cases where the heating was inadequate better facilities were provided.

There are no regular out-workers in the district, although occasionally during a busy season some tailoring or dressmaking work may be taken home.

The Public Health Acts (Amendment Act) 1890 is in force in the district.

## (i) CANAL BOATS.

Twelve Boats were boarded and inspected. The following infringement was found :—Deck leaking, 1, and remedied after notice. In 5 instances where complaint notes existed, inspections were made and complaint notes cleared.

## (j) RATS DESTRUCTION ACT.

The campaign against these destructive rodents resulted in 827 being killed, chiefly on the tips, during the year. During “Rat Week” 106 were accounted for in various parts of the town : 210 baits of rat-poison were laid with good effect.

## (k) UNWANTED PETS.

The lethal chamber installed at the residence of the Inspector R.S.P.C.A. was used for destruction of 60 dogs and 98 cats, while 58 dogs and 5 cats were killed by the Humane Killer. This method of destruction prevents unnecessary suffering and the animals instead of being thrown into the canal or river are hygienically disposed of at the Gas Works.

F. HOLMES, M.S.I.A.

## 6.—SCHOOLS.

The five elementary and two secondary schools have all town's water laid on and are provided with water closets with automatic flushing apparatus. One school's conveniences reconditioned with separate flushing to each W.C.

There was slight interference with school attendance by Chicken Pox, Measles and Whooping Cough. The following cases were reported by the local Education Authority :

Chicken Pox : Water Street School, 7 cases. Broughton Street, 2. Parish School, 1.

Whooping Cough : Water Street School, 8 cases.

Measles : Water Street School, 3 cases.

Medical Inspection is undertaken by West Riding Education Authority and a separate report issued by the County Medical Officer.

A School Clinic is held every forenoon in the Wesleyan School for treatment of minor ailments.

#### D.—HOUSING.

##### STATISTICS.

(a) Number of NEW HOUSES erected during 1938 :—	
(i.) By the Local Authority ... ..	62
(ii.) By private enterprise ... ..	50
1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—	
(1) a. Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts ... ..	57
b. Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	57
(2) a. Number of dwellinghouses (including under sub head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... ..	57
b. Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	120
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	1
(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding subhead) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	57
2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—	
Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ..	38
3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS :—	
(a) Proceedings under section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	—
(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owner ... ..	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ..	—
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	—
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners ... ..	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ..	—
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	1
(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	—

(d) Proceedings under Sec. 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- |     |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |   |
|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| (1) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| (2) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |

4.—HOUSING ACT, 1936.—OVERCROWDING :—

(a)	(i.)	Number of dwellings overcrowded	...	...	...	...	...	32
	(ii.)	„ families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	32
	(iii.)	„ persons	...	...	...	...	...	227
(b)		New Cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	...	9
(c)	(i.)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved	...	...	...	...	...	26
	(ii.)	„ persons thus relieved	...	...	...	...	...	201
(d)		Number of houses again overcrowded after abatement	...	...	...	...	...	—
(e)		Any other particulars of interest: 9 families reduced to permitted number or found themselves other suitable accommodation.						
		Houses demolished as unfit	...	...	...	...	...	—
		Houses permanently closed as unfit	...	...	...	...	...	1

F. HOLMES, Housing Inspector

## HOUSING — SUFFICIENCY.

Your Inspector has supplied the following interesting note :—

“It would appear that through the combined efforts of the Council and private enterprise in the erection of 62 and 50 respectively, including one large house converted to 4 flats, should have some effect on the demand which is certainly not so acute as in the past few years.

It is most noticeable that the majority of the applicants for a Council house are now from those people who require a house possessing the equipment of a bath and incidentally at a lower rent than what is demanded, together with the amenities of a garden and open space.

The stage has not been reached when accommodation is available for newly-married couples, small families in rooms, marginal cases of overcrowding and recurring Statutory overcrowding which is likely to continue in a small degree for some time through the fact of children becoming adult at the age of ten years. Nine such instances have been found during the year and four where the accommodation as to proper separation of sex was apparent and through the fact that the living room under the Act is scheduled as a bedroom.

It is pleasing to note that the Council are considering the purchase of more land for the erection of further houses to meet the general need and for further action under Slum Clearance provisions. At the beginning of the year 22 families were on the list of “overcrowded.” These families required 4 to 5 bedrooms or houses of larger capacity than the existing two and three bedroom type. The Council fulfilled their obligation by the erection of sufficient houses to meet this need, and at the end of the year no known case of overcrowding existed, accommodation being found for 26 and 9 found other accommodation or left the district. By statutory action one basement dwelling was closed for habitation, and reconditioning improvement and repair work has been carried out with respect to 38 houses.”

## E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### 1.—MILK DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

There are 12 cowkeepers, 13 cowsheds and approximately 190 cows in the district. All were again inspected twice by the County Veterinary Surgeon and 21 times by the Sanitary Inspector.



In last year's report I stated that Tuberculosis among cows was twice as prevalent in Urban as compared with Rural districts. This was misleading so far as Skipton Urban is concerned. I should have explained that in Skipton animals scheduled as tuberculous included all such found either in the Auction Mart or Cattle Market which are held in the town—the former twice a week and the latter weekly.

Your Inspector further reports that he took 60 milk samples for the sedimentation test to detect visible filth. With 4 exceptions all were considered satisfactory—the exceptions coming from outside districts and being remedied after investigation and co-operation with the Authority concerned.

## 2.—MEAT.

No serious contravention of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, was observed, but two butchers had to be warned to ensure clean wrappings being used when transporting meat from outside the district to stalls in High Street.

Meat killed in the town is of very good quality—butchers dealing only in first-class beasts. As stated last year, the Council decided to exercise their powers under their Water Improvement Act in dealing with butchers' stalls as "buildings" and this matter is still under consideration.

There are two private slaughterhouses, both registered. The humane (captive bolt) killer is used to stun cattle and pigs before slaughter—for sheep its use is optional.

Licences for slaughter: 2 new licences and 41 renewals were granted.

### CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle Ex. Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known) ...	778	108	135	3849	1949
Number inspected ...	778	108	135	2960	1949
All diseases except Tuberculosis— whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	2	1	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	60	5	—	45	27
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	7·7	4·6	1·4	1·5	1·6
Tuberculosis only — whole car- cases condemned ...	—	1	—	—	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	13	3	—	—	36
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with Tuber- culosis ...	1·6	3·7	—	—	1·9

### SUMMARY.

At the public Abattoirs the following animals were slaughtered :—Beasts 782, Sheep 3,589, Pigs 1,739, Calves 135.

During the year the following were condemned as being unfit for human consumption from all sources.

7 whole carcasses, 1 Beast, 1 Sheep, 3 Pigs, 2 Calves	...	870 lbs.
Part Carcasses for localised disease	... ..	787 „
Organs, etc.	... ..	1196 „
Total		2853 lbs.

Compared with 4,882 lbs. in the previous year.

The total number of animals inspected affected with disease ... 195

### 3.—ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

The sampling of milk and action under the Food and Drugs Act are undertaken by the W.R.C.C., whose Inspector reports elsewhere on the local administration of the Act.

## F.—PREVALANCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

### (A) NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

As stated, under an earlier heading, the town was comparatively free from minor infectious disease. Chicken Pox and Whooping Cough invaded all schools, Measles and Whooping Cough Water Street school.

### (B) NOTIFIABLE DISEASES—INCIDENCE AND CONTROL.

The number of cases notified—some only provisionally—their ages, removals to hospital, etc., are given in the following table :—

Diseases.	Cases Notified.	AGES—YEARS.					Removed to Hospital	Deaths
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 45	45 and Upward.		
Scarlet Fever ...	7	—	1	4	2	—	6	—
Diphtheria ... ..	14	—	5	3	6	—	14	—
Enteric, &c., Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ... ..	5	—	—	1	2	2	—	—
Pneumonia ... ..	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Ophthalmia ... ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Scarlet Fever : Only 7 notifications were received, compared with 25 in 1935, 35 in 1936 and 8 in 1937. All cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital except one.

Diphtheria : 14 cases were notified, compared with 7, 4 and 2 in the previous three years—all removed to hospital.

With regard to other notifiable diseases—in fact, in regard to all—suffice it to say only 30 notifications were received during the year, compared with a total of 172 in 1934, 48 in 1935, 50 in 1936 and 16 in 1937.

SKIPTON ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—During the year 116 cases were admitted, compared with 123, 66, 266, 292, 122, 111 and 52 in the previous seven years.

District.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric, &c., Fever.	Other.	Total.
Skipton Urban ...	6	14	—	4	24
„ Rural... ..	18	46	1	1	66
Silsden Urban ...	19	2	—	1	22
Earby Urban ...	—	3	—	—	3
Colne ... ..	—	—	—	—	—

#### BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The County Bacteriologist reports the following specimens were examined in the County Laboratory during 1938 :—Blood films 7, Widal reaction 7, Sputa for T.B. 15, Urine for T.B. 5, Waters 5, Bio Chemical 32, Histological 15, Miscellaneous 9, Swabs Diphtheria 104. Total 199.

#### (c) TUBERCULOSIS.

In accordance with the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1912, a register is kept, the patients' homes are visited and advice given as to the precautions to be adopted in regard to ventilation, sleeping accommodation, indiscriminate spitting, cleanliness, and above all, to the risk of infection from dried sputum. Disinfection of infected rooms is carried out on removal or death, and on the return of patients from Sanatorium or Hospital, the house is again visited to see that so far as possible treatment is continued at home.

Below is given new cases, positive or suspected, ages and deaths, on the form suggested by the Minister of Health :—

Age Period.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pul.		Pulmonary		Non-Pul.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 ... ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5—10 ... ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10—15 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20 ... ..	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1
20—25 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 ... ..	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
35—45 ... ..	2	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
45—55 ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals ...	6	3	1	3	2	2	—	1

Death-rate : Pulmonary ·31, Non-pulmonary 0·07, total ·38, compared with ·38, ·61, ·47 and ·38 in the previous four years and with 1·47 for the Combined District.



At the beginning of the year there were on the register 51 pulmonary and 13 non-pulmonary cases—a total of 64. New cases numbered 9 pulmonary and 4 non-pulmonary, i.e., 13. Cases removed from the register on account of death, recovery, left district, refused treatment, etc., were 11, thus leaving on register 66, made up of 50 pulmonary and 16 non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

No action was taken or required under the P.H. (Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations, 1925, relating to tuberculous employees in the milk trade, nor under the P.H. Act, 1925, Section 62, which empowers certain cases of Tuberculosis to be compulsorily removed to hospital.

(d) PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS (P.H. Act, 1936, Section 176).

Apart from provision by the County Council of hospital treatment for Ophthalmia Neonatorum, welfare centres, school clinics and the systematic examination of school-children, no action has been taken by the Council.

### G.—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

At the Welfare Centre in the Wesleyan School, Water Street, a Committee of ladies and the W. R. Health Visitor, Nurse Grieve, continue their good work. Meetings for mothers and babies are held weekly, a clinic being conducted by Dr. J. M. Anderson on each occasion.

The Infant Mortality was very low—in fact, less than half the figure recorded in each of the three previous years, namely 30, compared with 33 for the Craven Combined Districts and with 53 for England and Wales. Of the 5 infants who died under one year of age all were due to premature birth or congenital debility.

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In conclusion, I beg to express my indebtedness to Mr. Holmes, Sanitary Inspector, for much valuable assistance in carrying on the Health Services of the town and for many details of work initiated and conducted by his department during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WILL SCATTERTY, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.,

KEIGHLEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

May, 1939.

## COMPARATIVE TABLE.

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, ETC., IN 1938.

	England and Wales.	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	Craven Combined District.
	Rates per 1,000 Population.			
BIRTHS :				
Live ... ..	15.1	15.0	15.4	12.4
Still ... ..	0.60	0.65	0.60	0.55
DEATHS :				
All Causes ... ..	11.6	11.7	11.0	12.9
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smallpox ... ..	0.00	—	0.00	0.00
Measles ... ..	0.04	0.05	0.03	0.01
Scarlet Fever ... ..	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02
Whooping Cough ... ..	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.00
Diphtheria ... ..	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.06
Influenza ... ..	0.11	0.10	0.11	0.06
NOTIFICATIONS :				
Smallpox ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever ... ..	2.41	2.60	2.58	1.51
Diphtheria ... ..	1.58	1.85	1.53	1.22
Enteric Fever ... ..	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.00
Erysipelas ... ..	0.40	0.46	0.39	0.20
Pneumonia ... ..	1.10	1.28	0.98	0.37
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.			
Deaths under 1 year of age ...	53	57	51	34
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age.	5.5	7.8	3.6	5.5
MATERNAL MORTALITY :				
Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	0.89	} Not available		1.4
Others ... ..	2.19			4.1
Total ... ..	3.08			5.5
	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still).			
MATERNAL MORTALITY :				
Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	0.86	} Not available		1.3
Others ... ..	2.11			3.9
Total ... ..	3.97			5.3
NOTIFICATIONS :				
Puerperal Fever ... ..	14.42	18.08	12.51	5.3
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..				





Skipton  
Urban District Council.

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OF THE

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FOR

**1938.**

KEIGHLEY, MAY, 1939.

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THE CRAVEN HERALD LTD. SKIPTON